



**U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE**  
**Office of the Secretary**  
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**FUR FARMING MANAGEMENT STUDIED.**

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Conditions in the fur farming industry in this country, in Alaska, and in Canada are being surveyed, as the first step of the recently created Division of Fur Resources of the Biological Survey, United States Department of Agriculture. Frank G. Ashbrook, chief of the new division, has been making a special study of Canadian methods of fur farming and of the attitude of the Canadian Government toward the industry. In August and early in September he visited a number of fur farms on Prince Edward Island to observe methods of feeding, breeding, and sanitation, and went also to Quebec and Montreal to discuss with representatives of the Canadian fur trade the general trend of the season's fur business, the outlook for the coming year, and the quality of skins now on the market. Fur farming in Canada is found to be progressing satisfactorily and the business on a more stable basis. Many new ranches have been established on Prince Edward Island during the last three years, indicating that the interest taken by the Canadian Government in fur farming is producing substantial results.

The two associations representing the silver fox industry in the United States amalgamated in June to form the American National Fox Breeders' Association, and its secretary visited Ottawa while Mr. Ashbrook was there to confer with him and with Canadian officials relative to the methods employed in registering silver foxes. The Canadian Government is fostering the fur industry and endorses the National Livestock Records, the board which registers silver foxes. Government inspectors examine all foxes before they are eligible for registry and require rigid enforcement of sanitary standards on ranches. In this country there is no officially recognized system of registering fur animals, but every effort is made by the Department of Agriculture to bring about improved breeding, especially of fur bearers in captivity, the majority of which are foxes. In Alaska alone there are approximately 500 fur farms and the industry there is represented by four fur-farmers' associations.

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